

What is Claimed Is:

1. A toothbrush, wherein the tufting holes formed in the tufting part are almost elliptic or almost rectangular and the tufting holes are inclined toward the tufting surface.
2. A toothbrush according to Claim 1, wherein the lengthwise direction of the tufting holes is along the direction of handle length.
3. A toothbrush according to Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein there is at least one group of tufting holes that form a pair inclined to the inside.
4. A toothbrush according to any 1 of Claims 1 through 3, wherein inclination in a vertical direction of inclined tufting holes is 2 to 10°.
5. A toothbrush according to any 1 of Claims 1 through 4, where the monofilaments that form the tufts to be implanted in the tufting holes have a rectangular cross section, the direction of the long side of this cross section being along the lengthwise direction of the tufting holes.
6. A toothbrush according to any 1 of Claims 1 through 5, wherein there is a plurality of converging blocks of a pair of <sup>two</sup> tufts facing and supporting one another.

Claim 1 or Claim 2

7. A toothbrush according to ~~any 1 of claims 1 through 6~~, wherein ~~the end portion~~ of each tuft that has been implanted is worked into a V-shape.

8. A toothbrush according to ~~Claim 6 or 7~~, wherein converging blocks are at least at ~~(the front) or (the back)~~ in the lengthwise direction of ~~the tufting base~~.

9. A toothbrush according to ~~any 1 of claims 6 through 8~~, wherein ~~the next row~~ of converging blocks is positioned behind ~~the space~~ that is formed between converging blocks in ~~the front row~~ in the direction of handle length.

10. A toothbrush according to ~~any 1 of Claims 1 through 9~~, wherein an anchor that is driven into ~~the tufting base~~ in ~~the folded part~~ of a tuft that has been folded in ~~the center~~ in its lengthwise direction is driven into the tufting hole so that it is almost parallel to ~~the long side~~ or ~~the short side~~ of the tufting hole and ~~the opening surface area~~ of the tufting hole is divided into two equal parts in order to embed and support the said tufts in the tufting hole.

11. A toothbrush according to ~~any 1 of Claims 1 through 10~~, wherein the said anchor is positioned  $\pm 10^\circ$  with respect to ~~the center line~~ along ~~the lengthwise direction~~ of the said tufting hole.

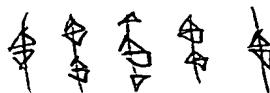
12. A toothbrush according to Claim 11, wherein the centers of the tufting holes are not lined up on one straight line in the direction of handle length.

13. A toothbrush according to any 1 of claims 1 through 12, wherein tufting holes account for 10 to 30 mm in [the direction of handle length] and 5 to 15 mm in [the direction of handle width].

14. A toothbrush according to any 1 of claims 1 through 13, wherein the tufting holes are almost rectangular and [the short side] of these almost rectangular tufting holes has dimensions of 0.8 to 2.0 mm, while [the long side] has dimensions of 1.5 to 5.0 mm.

15. A toothbrush according to any 1 of claims 2 through 14, where [the distance] at [the base] between the tufts that form a pair and make up [the converging blocks] is 0.2 to 4.0 mm.

16. A toothbrush according to any 1 of claims 6 through 15, wherein there are 5 rows of tufts in the lengthwise direction of the tufting base, with Rows 1 and 5 forming one converging block in [the center] in [the direction of width] of [the tufting base], Rows 2 and 4 forming 2 converging blocks on either side sandwiching the center in the direction of width of the tufting base, and Row 3 forming one converging block at the center in the direction of width of the converging block, and there is 1 independent tuft, each inclined so that it is in the same



*See*  
direction as the tufts that form the said converging blocks, but its end portion does not touch the converging blocks, to [the outside] of the said converging blocks.